Discimination

Colored Nurses Are Ousted For Whites

Journal & Guide Norfolk, Va.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—Fourteen colored nurses on duty at the veterans' hospital in Oteen, N. C., have been replaced by white nurses because the Veterans' Administration was unable to hire 16 additional colored nurses to join them in completing the jim crow nursing staff required to care for 66 tubercular colored veterans hospitalized there. Sat 4-27-46

The 14 nurses were given their choice of being transferred to Roanoke, Va., Waco, Texas, Fort Bayard, N. M., or Tuskegee, Ala.

Dr. W. R. Southward, acting director of VA medical services for North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, said the transfer was made due to "the failure of efforts to recruit sixteen additional Negro nurses to care for tubercular Negro veterans in the hospital coupled with an overall shortage of nurses quarters at the hospital."

Although Dr. outhward's statement indicated that the transfer had been forced because of failure of colored nurses to apply for the positions, in reality it is the climax of a fight between the administration and the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses to have colored nurses integrated in VA hospitals without discrimination.

ENLISTS AID OF NURSES ASSOCIATION

Dr. Paul R. Hawley, VA medical director, revealed recently that he had requested the Graduate Nurses Association to furnish him with 16 additional nurses to complete the nursing staff at Oteen.

He said that unless he was able to get the 16 nurses he would be forced to replace them with white nurses because the 14 colored nurses were occupying quarters which would house 40 persons and that since he could not move the white nurses in with the colored ones, unless he got the 16 additional nurses housing space would be wasted.

He said he had written to Mrs. Mabel K. Staupers, executive secretary of the Colored Graduate Nurses, concerning the matter and was at that time awaiting her reply.

Mrs. Staupers had answered Dr. Hawley on April 5, it was learned, and while protesting the segregation of colored nurses, referred him to Mrs. Ruth Cohen of the nurse replacement and counseling office in the United States Employment Services in New York, and to Mrs. Bertha Byrnes of the American Nurses Association Replacement Service in Chicago. Sat 4-27-46

In an exchange of correspondence, Mrs. Staupers told Dr. Hawley that it was unjust to ask colored nurses to leave positions in the North, East, and West to take positions in southern sections of the country where they would be denied their civil and other rights.

SEEKS INTTEGRATION IN VA

She added, however, that she felt sure colored nurses would respond to the call of the VA just as they had responded to the Army's call if they would be given the same fair and equitable treatment the Army had given them.

"The position we have taken," wrote Mrs. Staupers, "is that there should be the same kind of integration in the Veterans' Administration which was finally achieved in the Army Nurse Corps at the end of the war."

She then cited a list of white schools which accept colored nurse trainees and named southern Army camps where colored nurses had been fully integrated during the war. These included Fort Bragg, N. C., and Camp Livingstone, La.

VA Alibi For 'No Negro Nurses' Hit

Chicago Defender 5-25-46

WASHINGTON — The Veterans' Administration's alibi that segregation and discrimination is an outgrowth of local custom was sharply criticized this week by Mrs. Mabel K. Staupers, executive secretary of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses.

In a letter to Maj. Gen. Paul R. Hawley, acting surgeon general of the VA, Mrs. Staupers pointed out that the only qualifications required for the employment of Negro nurses should be that they meet the standards set forth in the personnel practices of the organization or institution.

Mrs. Staupers, who has just returned from a survey of sectional conditions for nurses, said that despite the scarcity of trained nurses, a facility in the California area has just employed its first Negro nurse.

However, this indicated, she added, that health agencies are alert to the need to change from policies of discrimination, and that the VA should set a precedent here.

Conference Urges Abolition of Quota System for Nurses

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md
Sat. 10-19-46

ATLANTIC CITY—(ANP)—A denouncement of any quota system which would exclude the prepared colored practical nurse from nursing services was delivered by Miss Alma Vessels, executive secretary of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses and former director of the Harlem YWCA school for practical nurses, here last week, at a special interest conference of the National Nursing convention.

Miss Vessels was speaking before 1,500 delegates on the subject "The Prepared Practical Nurse in Nursing Service."

Opportunities Urged for All

Asserting that no program designed to provide greater nursing education and services can afford to overlook the fact that all trained persons should be given equal opportunity to serve regardless of race, creed, or color, Miss Vessels asked, "Should quotas be established which would permit a limited number of colored practical nurses to be employed?"

She pointed out that during the war the question of quotas loomed large in almost every phase of military and civilian life, and because of them many of the goals set were exceeded, maintained, or not met at all.

Deplores Quota System

"The ugly spectre of quotas as relates to the minority groups within our country caused many unhappy incidents which should not be repeated," Miss Vassells said. "Unfortunately, however, we find many of the war-time patterns still in existence.

The field of nursing did not escape the quota system, and in many areas we find, in spite of desperate shortages of nurses, colored nurses are not being employed, either because of color or a 'quota' which operates against them."

NURSES' UNIT VOTES TO ADMIT NEGROES

The Times

Association Also Asks Equal Pay for All Regardless of 'Color, Race, Creed'

New York, N.Y. Sat.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Sept. 27—The American Nurses Association voted today to take into membership those qualified Negro nurses, mostly from the Southern States, who cannot become members of the ANA through their respective State nurses' associations.

In a resolution adopted by the 2,000-member house of delegates of the ANA at the closing session of the fourteenth biennial nursing convention, the members called on their board of directors to take steps to implement the action and report back no later than the next convention. 9-28-46

At the final meeting of the national organization for public health nursing, the members adopted a resolution calling on "professional nursing organizations to use their influence to make equal opportunities for employment and equal salaries for all public health nurses on basis of their qualifications and without regard to color, race and creed."

In another resolution, the organization "expressed its belief that until other recommendations are accepted, all discussions and negotiations for improvement of personnel policies should be carried on through professional nursing organizations, and not through organized unions."

The NOPHN also called for the extension of the old-age benefits of the Social Security Acts to include nurses. Other resolutions called for a program of optimum health to be made available to all; greater emphasis on the health of school children; expansion of prepayment health insurance plans and inclusion of nursing in all such plans.

Ruth Hubbard, R. N. general director, Visiting Nurses Society, Philadelphia, was elected president of the NOPHN, succeeding Marion W. Sheahan, Albany. Ruth Freeman, American Red Cross, Washington, and Mrs. David K. Ford, Visiting Nurses Association, Cleveland, were named vice presidents. L. Meredith Maxson, vice president, First Boston Corporation, New York City, and Ruth Houlton, New York City, were elected treasurer and secretary, respectively. Hortense Hilbert, New York City Department of Health, and Miss Sheahan were named to the board of directors.

Ruth Sleeper, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, was re-elected president of the National League of Nursing Education.

Catherine J. Densford, director, School of Nursing, and professor, School of Nursing, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, was re-elected president of the ANA.

Fourth Nurses' Group Ends Bias

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Will Admit All Qualified Grads

Sat. 11-16-46 pm

Hats Off!

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (ANP) — Following similar action taken recently by the American Nursing Association, and the Florida, Alabama and Maryland groups, the Tennessee State Nurses Association voted to ban membership segregation, here, Thursday.

The vote, 76 to 28, to "accept qualified colored graduate nurses into full membership" came at the 41st annual convention with the 17th annual State conference of Tennessee League of Nursing Education held at Andread Johnson Hotel.

Follows Palmquist Plea

Viewed by some as being the swaying factor for the inclusion of colored nurses in the association was the address given by Miss Eleanor Palmquist, white New Yorker, assistant director of the National Organization of Public Health nurses under the subject of "Meeting Community Nursing Needs."

Miss Palmquist held that community nursing needs have greatly increased and are still increasing with communities all over the nation reporting the need for more nurses and better trained nurses. "They want nurses who are able to give all types of community services—nurses in industry, schools; mental, municipal and tuberculosis hospitals, public health programs, etc."

Study Urgent

Urging that a study of community needs be fostered by local committees to ascertain the amount of nursing care for aged, in convalescent hospitals, or better licensing of practical nurses needed to maintain the community health program on a high keel, Miss Palmquist pointed out that there is a critical shortage of teachers to train the nurses.

Some encouragement on the nursing shortage was given by Dr. Grace McGlinchey, personnel consultant of ANA Professional Counseling and Placement Service, Inc., who said "It's improving," although "not as many veterans are back in private duty as we had expected; more are still in the service and many are back in training schools."

New York, N.Y.

To Hermantide G. Jones, surgical ward instructor at Harlem Hospital, for being one of 10 women receiving honorable mention in the American Nurses' Assn.'s national search for the typical American nurse of 1946. Besides working part-time at Post Graduate Hospital, Miss Jones is studying at Columbia for her B.S. in nursing arts. Fri. 11-22-46

Survey Shows Peace Changed Public's Attitude Toward Minority Nurse Care

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat. 10-5-46

NORC Poll Reveals That in 1944, 57% OKed None-Whites, Now Only 48% Feel That Way

DENVER, Colo.—Although during the war, a majority of white civilians said they would accept colored nurse care in hospitals, today half think they would not like such care.

Two nation-wide surveys by the National Opinion Research Center, reveal that, while two years ago 57% of white people said that colored nusre care would "be all right" with them, only 48% feel that way now.

2-Year Trend

In 1944, 42% disliked the idea; in 1946 50%. On each NORC survey, a cross-section of white civilian adults throughout the United States were asked:

"If you were sick in a hospital, would it be all right with you if you had a colored nurse, or wouldn't you like it?"

It was revealed that the more education a person has the more willing he is to have a colored nurse care for him. A clear majority of Northerners, but only a minority of Southerners would consider a colored nurse favorably.

Large Cities Liberal

In large cities, 58% of those interviewed would accept colored nurse care; only 44% of white farm residents have the same feeling.

The high esteem in which some white people hold colored nurses is shown in comments volunteered by persons questioned.

Favorable Comments

A hotel employee in Brooklyn, N.Y., remarked, "I just had one at the hospital and she treated me very nice." An Iowa policeman believes: "If a colored woman gets to be nurse, she has to be pretty good."

One said, "A colored woman is a natural born nurse," while another commented, "I have never seen a colored person yet who wasn't willing to do and help you more than white people."

Common Sense

"When you need medical care, it doesn't matter who gives it to you," was the answer from several.

Opponents of the matter remarked for the most part, "I would much prefer a white nurse," while others admitted having "a racial feeling toward the situation," or termed colored as listless or slow-moving.

Nurses Win Rating Status

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

WASINGTON.

The fight for professional status for nurses in Federal government hospitals, waged for the past nine months by UPWA-CIO, was won yesterday when professional ratings were approved by the Civil Service Commission. Sat. 6-29-46

The fight for professional status was initiated by the union through the nurses "shop" in its Freedmen's Hospital branch. The Freedmen's nurses presented the first demand on the subject to the Civil Service Commission, and their request was officially acted on yesterday when the blanket order—applying to all Federal hospitals—was issued.

The commission's order yesterday marks the latest in an impressive series of salary increases which employees of Freedmen's and St. Elizabeth hospitals have won since they organized in the CIO union.

A resolution demanding the professional status for nurses was the second one adopted at the UPWA's recent convention in Atlantic City.

Tennessee Nurses Break Tradition

Defender Chicago, Ill. Sat. 11-23-46

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—(ANP)—The Tennessee State Nurses association voted 76 to 28 to accept "qualified Negro graduate nurses into full membership" last week in its forty-first annual convention with the seventeenth annual state conference of the Tennessee League of Nursing education at the Andrew Johnson hotel here.

Following similar action taken recently by the American Nursing Association at its nation convention, along with that of Florida, Alabama, and Maryland, the surprise move was reportedly encouraged by an address given by Miss Eleanor Palmquist, a white New Yorker and assistant director of the National Organization of Public Health Nurses.

Speaking on the subject, "Meeting Community Nursing Needs," Miss Palmquist said the community nursing needs have greatly increased and are still increasing with communities all over the nation reporting the need for more and better trained nurses. "They want nurses who are able to give all types of community services—nurses in industry, schools, mental, municipal and tuberculosis hospitals, public health programs, etc."

Harlem Hospital Tutor Listed as Typical Nurse

The Amsterdam News, New York, N.Y. Sat. 11-30-46

NEW YORK—Surgical ward instructor at Harlem Hospital. Miss Hermantide G. Jones, was one of 10 women who received honorable mention in the American Nurses' national search for the typical American nurse of 1946. In addition to working part-time at Post Graduate Hospital, Miss Jones is studying for her B. S. degree in nursing arts at Columbia University. Sat. 11-30-46

NEGRO NURSE IS HONORED

Mary Mahoney Medal Presented to Mrs. E. M. Riddle

Mrs. Estelle Massey Riddle, R. N., consultant for the National Nursing Council, and first Negro nursing director for Homer Phillips Hospital in St. Louis, received yesterday the Mary Mahoney Medal of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses. Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune made the presentation at exercises in the Y.W.C.A., 179 West 137th Street.

Presented to honor the first Negro to graduate from a recognized school of nursing—the New England Hospital for Women and Children at Boston in 1879—the medal is given annually to a Negro nurse who has achieved distinction in her profession.

A citation of merit was given Mrs. Alida Daily, R. N., as first Negro director of nursing in the New York City Department of Hospitals, and first Negro member of the nursing faculty of New York University. Edward Bernecker, Commissioner of Hospitals spoke in this connection.

Alma Vessells Named Head of Negro Nurses

Alma Vessells, was appointed the new executive secretary of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, it was officially announced yesterday. Miss Vessells succeeds Mrs. Mabel Keaton Staupers, who has resigned after 12 years with the organization.

Miss Vessells is a graduate of the Harlem Hospital School of Nursing and holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the New York University School of Education. Since 1944, she has been Assistant Consultant for the National Nursing Council for War Service.

Hats Off!

PM takes off its hat today to Mrs. Mabel Keaton Staupers, R. N., who announced yesterday that she is retiring Aug. 1 as the executive secretary of the National Assn. of Colored Nurses. Mrs. Staupers is given major credit for the advances made by Negro women in the nursing field in recent years. She led the fight to break down the Army's Jim Crow policy which kept enlistment and commissioning of Negro nurses at an extremely low level, and won her point in 1944 when the Army officially let down the bars.

ANA Orders Bars Down for Nurses

ATLANTIC CITY—Reaffirming its policy that "every qualified registered nurse should be eligible for membership regardless to race," the American Nurses' Association instructed its board of directors last Friday to devise a plan for admittance of qualified colored nurses barred from their State organizations.

Although few opposed the plan, leaders said it would probably be two years before it could be completed, and hailed it as marking a milestone and as a step toward racial equality.

Several delegates from States among the thirteen which still deny membership to colored nurses, took a stand in behalf of the issue and pledged to support the measure on their return home.

Graduate Nurses Honor Estelle Massey Riddle; Present Her With Mary Mahoney Medal Award

NEW YORK—At the testimonial tea given by the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses and its New York Affiliated Organizations at the Harlem branch of the YWCA last Saturday, Mrs. Estelle Massey Riddle, R.N., M.A. and Consultant of the National Nursing Council was recipient of the Mary Mahoney Award.

Mrs. Alida Cooley Dailey, R.N., M.A., and director of the School of Nursing and Nursing Service of Harlem Hospital, received honorable mention as the first Negro to be appointed as Director of Nurses by the New York City Department of Health. Mrs. Mary E. Manley, R.N., and director of the Division of Nursing of the Department of Hospitals, spoke in her behalf.

Guest speakers were Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, president of the National Council of Negro Women, and Dr. Edward Bernecker, Commissioner of Hospitals of New York City. Dr. Bernecker's speech was read in his absence.

DR. BETHUNE SPEAKS

In her presentation of the Mary Mahoney Award to Mrs. Riddle, Dr. Bethune said:

"In her work today as consultant to the National Nursing Council, she has worked steadily for the integration of Negro nurses into the total scheme of the field of nursing education . . . We point with pride also to her appointment as an instructor in New York University, not as a teacher of any specialized subjects which relate to the Negro, but rather as an instructor in the field of nursing education, community problems and supervision."

In her acceptance of the medal, Mrs. Riddle referred to Dr. Frank Boaz's research, in which he points out: "The eyes of the seer will hope to be seen." Using the medal symbolically, Mrs. Riddle traced the contributions of other nurses, which have influenced her life and contributed to her development. Among those mentioned were Miss Lula G. Warlick, who first gave her an interest in nursing organizations; Miss Alma C. Haupt, a white nurse, who constantly stressed the theme of hands across the chasm and gave inspiration and help to Negro nurses, and to Mrs. Bethune for the respect and dignity she has always displayed towards women in the nursing profession.

Mrs. Riddle emphasized the need for increasing opportunities for the advancement of Negro nurses in the public health field and the opportunities in nursing for qualified women today.

Mrs. Riddle has been named to the executive committee of Women in World Affairs, the advisory committee of the Division of Nursing Education of the U. S. Public Health Service, and a member of the advisory committee of the U. S. Office of Education.

Among those present were representatives from the Department of Health, the American Nurses Association, the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, the National League of Nursing Education and the National Nurses Council.

A vocal selection was rendered by Miss Thelma Murray, with Miss Bonnie Goodman as accompanist.

Miss Alma Vessells to Succeed Mrs. Staupers as NACGN Head

NEW YORK—Appointment of Miss Alma Vessells, R.N.,B.S., as the new executive secretary of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, was made officially recently at the Headquarters of the Association, 1790 Broadway.

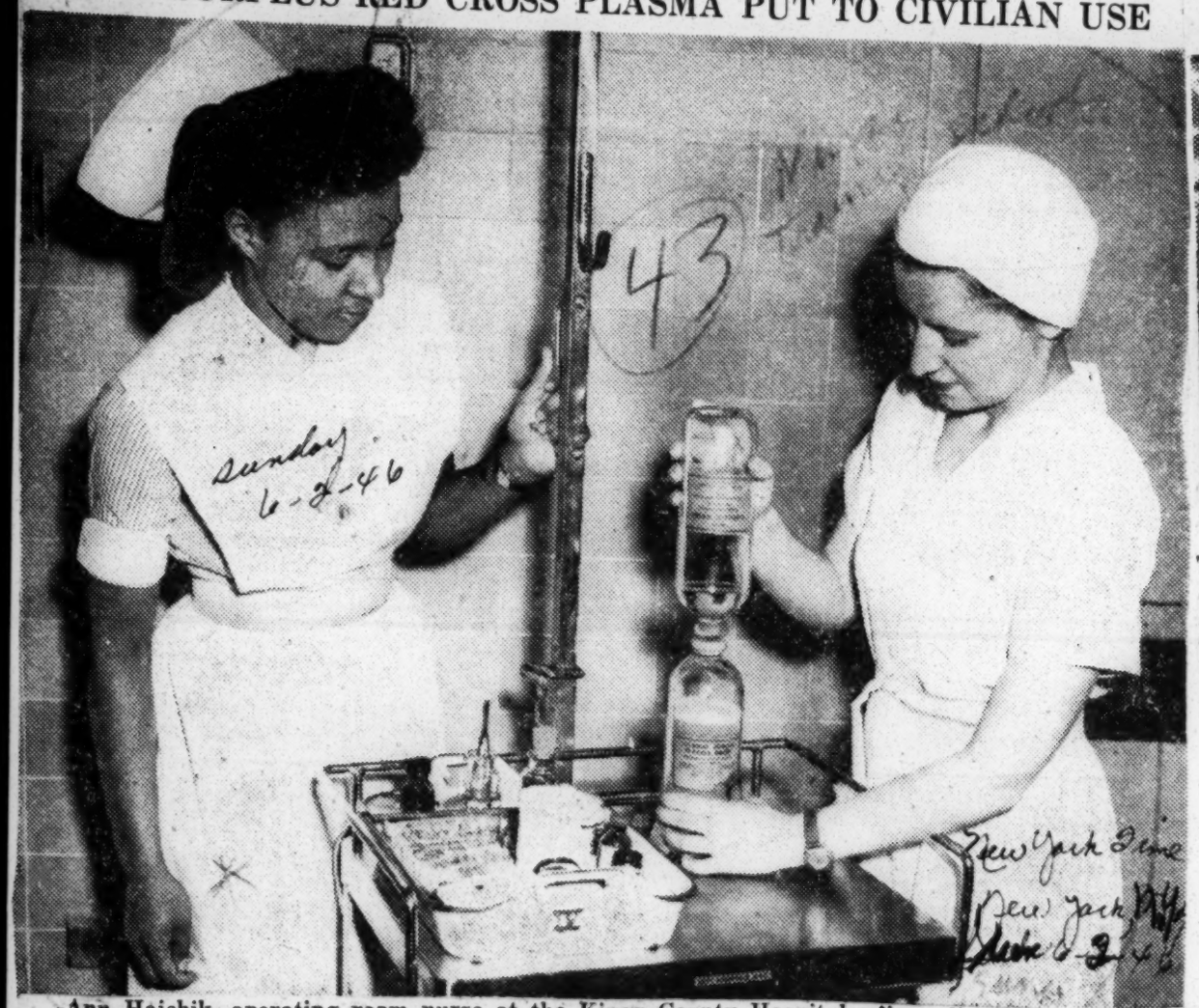
Miss Vessells succeeds Mrs. Mabel Keaton Staupers, R.N., who has resigned to take a rest after 12 years service with the organization.

Miss Vessells was born in Philadelphia, Pa., is a graduate of the Harlem Hospital School of Nursing and holds a degree from the New York University School of Education. Since 1944 she has been assistant consultant for the National Nursing Council for War Services.

The retiring executive secretary, Mrs. Staupers, has long occupied a position as one of the leading women in the nation and major credit is given her for the great advances made by colored women in the field of nursing in recent years. Her resignation becomes effective August 1. She leaves July 1 on her terminal vacation.

Miss Vessells assumes her new duties on July 1 at which time she will be loaned by the National Nursing Council to the NACGN until October 1.

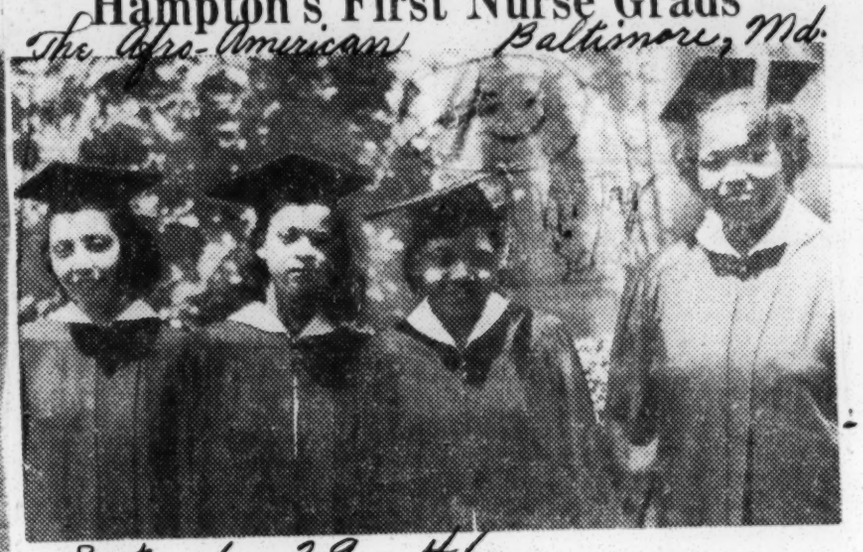
WAR SURPLUS RED CROSS PLASMA PUT TO CIVILIAN USE



Ann Haichik, operating room nurse at the Kings County Hospital, mixes distilled water with dried plasma before a transfusion while student nurse, Juanita Bonilla, looks on.

Hampton's First Nurse Grads

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.



Sat. 6-29-46

The four young women shown above are the first full-fledged graduates of Hampton Institute's collegiate division of Nurse Education. Recipients of the Bachelor of Science degree at the seventy-sixth annual commencement exercises at Hampton, they are, left to right: Misses Annette E. Butler of Fayetteville, N.C., who received a prize in nursing; Mary E. Whiten of Adamstown, Md., Annie L. Perry of NYC, and Annie G. Banks of Hartford, Conn.

Girls First Amsterdam News Nurse Grads In 48 Years

N. Y. N.Y.

PHILADELPHIA—(Special)— Included in the graduating class of 125 nurses from the Philadelphia General Hospital were two Negro girls, Miss Evelyn Clark and Miss Elizabeth W. Glover. They are the first such graduates in 48 years.

Miss Clark was among the 38 in the class who received diplomas at the ceremonies held last week, while Miss Glover will be formally graduated in September with the remaining 86 in the class. 1-6-46

Since commencement excercises are held only once a year, both groups take part in the observance during the Spring term, although in cases where work will not be completed until September, as in Miss Glover's case, diplomas are held until that date.

Miss Glover has also assumed duties at the hospital, as the first Negro woman in decades to serve there.

The only Negro student nurse now in training at the institution is Miss Eva Taylor, who is scheduled for graduation in September, 1947.

Science Degree in Nursing at Meharry Approved by the Board of Trustees

The Globe Nashville, Tenn.

Nashville, Fri 8-9-46

Keeping in mind the need for leadership and creative ability in Nursing, a program for the School of Nursing leading to the Bachelor of Science degree has been approved by the Board of Trustees at Meharry Medical College. The program which will be three calendar (four academic) years in length is planned for the student who has approximately sixty semester hours credit in a liberal arts course. The new degree course has for its aim the preparation of carefully selected young women so that they may develop maturity, skill in nursing, and responsibility for citizenship. Young women are to be selected who have demonstrated quality, leadership and intellectual ability. A program of study is to be offered that will present a continuous challenge to the student. Under the new development counselling for the guidance of the student will be provided to help her achieve a high degree of self development and discipline. The activities of the student will be integrated so that she can become aware of the interrelationship of nursing care, mental hygiene and health teaching, and many become proficient in serving her patients in the home, the hospital and the community.

According to Miss Alma Gault, Director of Nursing Education, the Bachelor of Science degree is to be awarded to students who shall have successfully completed the three calendar years of work at Meharry after two years of work in college including certain prerequisites. The Pre-Nursing courses must have been taken at a school accredited by recognized accrediting agencies for colleges and secondary schools.

Negro Nurse Training Program Suspended

The News Birmingham, Ala. Wed.

The program of training Negro nurses at Jefferson-Hillman Hospital has been suspended, according to announcement made today by Dr. Roy Kracke, dean of the Medical College of Alabama of which the hospital's School of Nursing is an affiliate.

The program will not be resumed, Dr. Kracke said, until the school has adequate facilities to provide for complete segregation of the nursing students. 9-18-46

Three Admitted to Catholic Nursing Order

The Afro-American

These three young women began training recently with the Sisters of St. Mary of the Third Order of St. Francis, a Catholic Nursing Order, at St. Mary's Infirmary in St. Louis. Until their admission, all nurse trainees were white. Left to right, Misses Pauline Townsend, Washington; Hilda Brickus, Brooklyn, N.Y. and Betty Ebo, Bloomington, Ill. Religious News Photo

Baltimore, Md. Sat 8-31-46